

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER—History of the Ancient Olympic Games

Substantive Knowledge:

To identify periods of rapid change in history and contrast them with times of relatively little change.

To describe the main changes in a period of history (using terms such as: social, religious, political, technological and cultural).

To place the dates of Olympic games onto a timeline.

To consider why the Olympic games started and what we can learn from this.

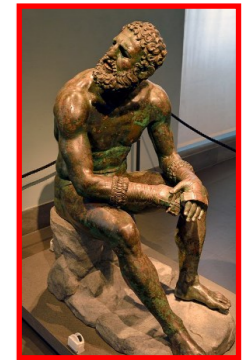
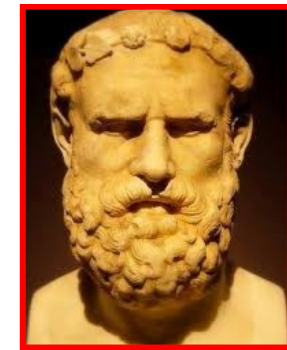
To consider what we can learn about Ancient Greece from the Olympic Games including daily life and society.

To think about the relevance the ancient Olympic games has on the modern Olympics.



Why and how did the Olympic Games start?

- The ancient Olympic Games actually started in 776 B.C. as a religious festival or celebration in honour of the powerful king of the Greek gods, **Zeus**.
- Sport was not the main focus at the start of the Games - the events were added later.



Theagenes of Thasos

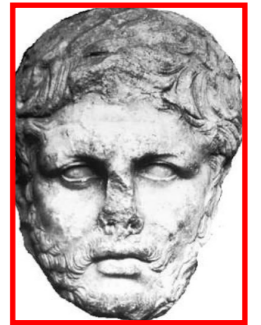
Who were some of the famous athletes of the ancient Greek Olympics?



Diagoras of Rhodes



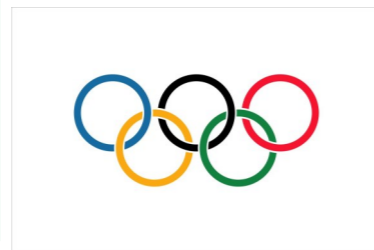
Melankomas of Caria



Polydamas of Skotoussa



For the first 12 Games the **stadion** foot-race was the only athletic event, and it remained the most prestigious event throughout the history of the ancient Olympics. The race was run over one length of the stadium track (a stadion), equal to 600 ancient feet or 192 metres.

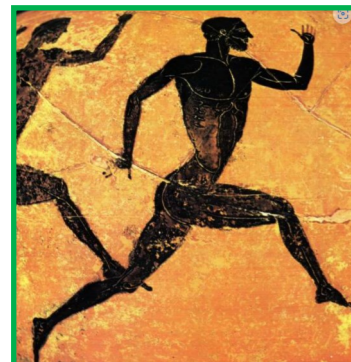


How does the modern Olympic games compare with the ancient games?

What sports were the same / similar / different?

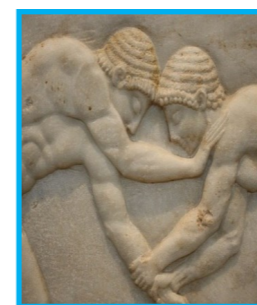
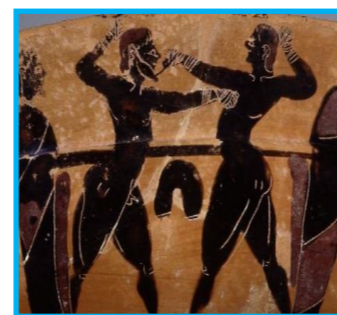
What do the Olympic games tell us about the lives and culture of those living in Ancient Greece at the time?

What can we learn from evidence taken at the time?



Only men were allowed to be a spectator. Women could be killed if they were caught trying to watch.

However, unmarried women had their own separate festival every 4 years at Olympia called the Heraia, named after Hera,



If the Games were so popular, why did they come to an end?
During the second century BC, the Romans gained more power and controlled more and more of Greece.

Under Roman rule the games began to decline in importance and was eventually banned because they still represented a pagan festival.

The Olympic Truce:

At first, when the Olympic games were announced, there was a truce between the city states to allow the athletes to travel safely.

Nowadays, the UN asks member states to observe an Olympic truce to still allow the athletes to travel safely to take



Battle of Marathon:

The Persians had invaded Athens and they needed help to defeat them. Pheidippides (a runner) was sent to Sparta (another city state) to ask for help.

Ancient Greece was made up of different city states who would often battle each other.

